

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-14 are pending in the application, claims 2 and 3 being canceled and claim 14 being newly added herein. Claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7, 9, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner points out that the term "said filtering" in claim 7 lacks antecedent basis and suggests --said filtration means-- as substitute language. The Examiner additionally points out that the term "said body" in claims 9 and 13 lacks antecedent basis.

In response to the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, that claim has been amended to replace the term "said filtering" with the term --said filtration means--, as suggested by the Examiner.

In response to the rejection of claims 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, applicant notes that, owing to the amendment of claim 1 herein to incorporate limitations of claims 2 and 3, there is now antecedent basis provided for the term "said body."

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 2, and 7-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,099,735 to Kelada.

Claims 1, 2, and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,755,957 to Jeon in view of either U.S. Patent No. 5,143,601 to Sloak or U.S. Patent No. 5,002,664 to Clack.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any combination of references cited above and further in view of German Patent Document No. 4108441.

Claim stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over any combination of references cited above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,312,589 to Jarocki.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-6 and 13 are objected to.

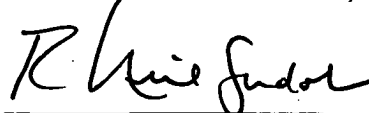
In view of the evident indication by the Examiner that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter, applicant has amended claim 1 herein to incorporate essential limitations from claims 2 and 3. Other claims have been amended to correct errors in syntax or usage and to conform the claims to contemporary American claim drafting practice. New claim 14 contains essential limitations from claims 1, 12, and 13 and is believed to be allowable over the cited art.

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 14, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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